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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

The Security Situation in Uruguay

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
9 March 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Security Situation in Uruguay
(Situation Report Number 5)

1. Uruguayan Communists have begun agitating at factories in Montevideo to prepare workers for a general strike sometime during the next few weeks to protest the Meeting of American Presidents. The Communist Party's capability for organizing such a strike is strong. Just two weeks ago it engineered a fairly successful 24-hour general strike in support of the underpaid public health employees. The health workers, who are being financially supported by the Communists, have not returned to work and the party probably believes it can easily convert their strike into a protest against the Summit meeting.

2. The Communist Party's youth wing has been made responsible for organizing a protest march from Montevideo to Punta del Este--a distance of roughly 60 miles--probably to take place during or just prior to the Presidents' Meeting. However, the Uruguayan security forces are now gearing up to insure effective security in Punta del Este and close coordination has been established between the Uruguayan officer in charge and US Embassy officials.

3. The Uruguayan foreign minister--newly appointed and lacking experience--hopes to ward off intense student and labor agitation by going ahead with plans to place two Communist sympathizers--the rector of the University and the president of the Communist-dominated national labor confederation--on the Uruguayan delegation to the inter-American committee which meets on 13 March to formulate the final agenda for the Presidents' Meeting. The two men, whose appointments have been reported by the press, might well be a disruptive influence on the committee and through them the Communist Party will undoubtedly keep abreast of plans regarding the meeting.

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